

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4099

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

DIA WASH DC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS NICOSIA 2260

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

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SUBJ: CYPRIOT REACTION TO FORD'S MESSAGE ON CYPRUS TO CONGRESS

1. PRESIDENT FORD'S FIFTH MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON PROGRESS IN CYPRIOT NEGOTIATIONS WAS PROMINENT NEWS STORY HERE AUGUST7. GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS TREATMENT EMPHASIZED PESSIMISTIC ASPECTS OF REPORT. TYPICAL HEADINGS WERE: PRO-CLERIDES SIMERINI - "FORD SPEAKS ABOUT TERRITORY, U.S. HAS FAILED TO PERSUADE TWO SIDES TO BEGIN SUBSTANTIAL TALKS"; PRO-CLERIDES AGON - "FORD: WE HAVE FAILED TO REMOVE DISTRUST"; RIGHTIST MAKHI " LITTLE PROGRESS ON CYPRUS"; COMMUNIST HARAVGHI - "FORD EQUATES TURKEY WITH CYPRUS"; UNCLASSIFIED

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PHILELEFHEROS, WHICH REFLECTS MAKARIOS' OPINIONS - "FORD: NO

GREAT PROGRESS FOR CYPRIOT SOLUTION." GOC CONTROLLED RADIO-TV STATION CBC GAVE STORY MODERATE ATTENTION AS NEWS ITEM. GOC SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO COMMENT ON REPORT UNTIL GOC HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY COMPLETE TEXT OF REPORT.

2. EDITORIAL REACTION IN GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS HAS BEEN CRITICAL. AUGUST 9 PHILELEGHEROS CLAIMED "FORD CAME CLOSE TO TELLING TRUTH CONCERNING CYPRUS SITUATION BUT DID NOT TELL WHOLE TRUTH AND THUS COVERED UP TUKISH POLICY WHICH IS ENTIRELY TO BLAME..." HE SAYS REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ALL SIDES BUT DOES NOT SAY WHICH SIDE OUGHT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS BUT HAS FAILED TO." MAKHI CALLED ON FORD TO ACT DECISIVELY ON CYPRUS IF HE WISHES TO BE CONSIDERED LEADER OF FREE WORLD. IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL SAME PAPER INSISTED THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS ON CYPRUS BECAUSE U.S. DID NOT WISH TO EXERT PRESSURE ON TURKEY. AUGUST 9 PRO-CLERIDES WEEKLY ALITHIA ALSO CRITICIZED FORD FOR NOT NAMING PARTY RESPONSIBLE FOR CYPRUS DEADLOCK AND PRO-GOVERNMENT KYPROS CALLED REPORT CONFUSING AND CONCLUDED CONGRESS IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT NOT TO HAVE CONFIENCE IN FORD'S REPORTS.

3. TURK CYPRIOT LEADER DENKTASH ALSO TOOK ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT'S REPORT, OBSERVING THAT "IT IS NOT THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT WHICH REALLY MATTER...BUT THE FACT THAT THE AMERICAN CONGRESS INISTS ON GETTING SUCH A PERIODIC REPORT ON CYPRUS IN VIEWING IT S RELATIONS WITH TURKEY." CONGRESS, DENKTASH COMPLAINED, IS PLAYING INTO MAKARIOS' HANDS AND ENCOURAGING GREEK STALLING TACTICS. MAKARIOS DOES NOT WANT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND HAS OPENLY DECLARED INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE PROBLEM AND ISOLATION OF TURKEY AS HIS AIMS. THUS, "ALL MAKARIOS HAS TO DO IS TO SEE THAT THE PERIODIC REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS IS A NEGATIVE ONE" BY SABOTAGING THE TALKS AND THEN BLAMING TURKEY. "THERE CAN BE NO END TO THIS VICIOUS CIRCLE AS LONG AS ARCH-BISHOP MAKARIOS OHOPES THAT 'BIG BROTHER USA WILL USE THE BIG STICK ON TURKEY'....THE TURKISH COMMUNITY HOPES THAT THE AMERICAN CONGRESS WILL HAVE A BETTER LOOK AT THE FACTS OF CYPRUS AND WILL STOP HELPING ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS AND HIS TEAM TO DESTROY THE BINATIONAL CHARACTER OF CYPRUS....." DILLERY

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